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**WRITERS
GUILD
of AMERICA
EAST**

August 4, 2014

Thomas Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

AUG 11 2014

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Dear Chairman Wheeler:

In the first round of public comments on the FCC's proposed rulemaking viz an Open Internet (i.e., Net neutrality), the Commission received more than a million responses. Among them were those of the Writers Guild of America, East (AFL-CIO), representing writers in motion pictures, broadcast and cable television, digital media and radio and television broadcast news.

We noted that with the proposed revisions to the Open Internet Order and the pending mergers of Comcast with Time Warner Cable and AT&T with DirecTV, the FCC "will determine how the media landscape is drawn for generations to come."

What's more, "As the Internet has developed in recent years, all data reaches consumers through a single pipe: email, social media, television, feature films after or sometimes simultaneous with their theatrical releases, made-for-digital programs, news in text and video form, land-line telephony. Permitting powerful gatekeepers to control and prioritize what flows through this single pipe, and at what rate and quality, would have an enormous effect on what Americans watch and read and learn and write and communicate. Equal and open access is essential and must be protected."

We believe the time has now come for the Commission to hold public hearings on the Open Internet rulemaking around the country. It is imperative that the FCC members travel beyond Washington, DC, to hear for themselves the voices of the American people who insist upon an Internet kept available on an equal and democratic basis for all.

We stand ready to assist the Commission in making these hearings possible. They are vitally important to our union members -- the storytellers and journalists who present America to itself and the world -- and to every citizen who values the freedom to speak and be heard.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Lowell Peterson
Executive Director

Michael Winship
President

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